

PROSPER MARIGNY.

DECEMBER 20, 1831.

Mr. BULLARD, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Private Land Claims, to which was referred the petition of Prosper Marigny, have had the same under consideration, and report:*

That the tract of land claimed by the petitioner has been in the actual occupancy and cultivation of himself, and of those through whom he derives title, for more than fifty years; that it was originally granted to De Bienville, one of the earliest French Governors of the province of Louisiana, by the Company of the Indias; and, as early as 1746, was sold by him to the person under whom the petitioner claims during the existence of the French and Spanish Governments in Louisiana, it was always regarded as private property. In common, with many other ancient inhabitants of that territory, the owners at that time reposing on the stipulations of the treaty of cession, that private property would be respected, and not aware of the condition required of them by the American Government, or of the regulations of land offices, took no steps to have the claim confirmed by the Commissioners. The consequence is, that the oldest grants in the country, and this among them, are liable to be brought under the hammer, as a part of the public domain. The committee are of opinion that the title of the petitioner should be confirmed, and report a bill accordingly.

